APPROVED

Da Vinci Schools

Minutes

Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High)

Date and Time
Tuesday December 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location
Mona Lisa, 201 N Douglas St, El Segundo, CA 90245

Da Vinci Schools ("DV") welcomes your participation at its Board meetings. The purpose of a public meeting of the Board of Trustees ("Board") is to conduct the affairs of DV in public. Your participation assures us of continuing community interest in our schools. To assist you in speaking/participating in our meetings, the following guidelines are provided:

1. The meeting is accessible online at https://davincischools-org.zoom.us/j/98270942619 or dial (669) 444-9171 and use Meeting ID: 982 7094 2619.
2. Agendas are available to all audience members on the Da Vinci Schools website www.davincischools.org.
3. Audience members who wish may speak on any agenda items or under the general category of "Public Comments," which is time set aside for members of the audience to raise issues not specifically on the agenda. However, due to public meeting laws, the Board can only listen to your issue, not respond or take action. These presentations are limited to three (3) minutes each and total time allotted to non-agenda items will not exceed twenty (20) minutes. Non-English speakers who use a translator shall have six (6) minutes in which to address the Board.
4. The Board may give direction to staff to respond to your concern or you may be offered the option of returning with a citizen-requested item.

5. The chair will recognize such individuals who wish to speak on a specific agenda item at the appropriate time. When addressing the Board, speakers are requested to adhere to the time limits set forth, and to not repeat remarks made by those who preceded them.
6. Any public records relating to an agenda item for an open session of the Board which are distributed to all, or a majority of all, of the Board members shall be available for public inspection at 201 N. Douglas Street, El Segundo, CA 90245, during Business Office operating hours. Please contact the CEO's office at 310-725-5800.

The agenda and documents in the agenda packet will be made available, if requested, in appropriate alternative formats to any person with a disability as required by the ADA, 42 USC section 12132, and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. To request a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, you must contact the CEO's office at 310-725-5800 at least 48 hours before a regular meeting, and at least 12 hours before a special meeting. (Government Code § 54954.2(a)(1).)

Trustees Present
C. McCullough, S. Nellman, T. Johnstone

Trustees Absent
C. Brown, L. Jennings

Guests Present
E. Whalen, J. Crouch, L. Rodriguez (remote), M. Amato, M. Rainey, N. Lara, V. Bravo, V. Rodriguez (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

C. McCullough called a meeting of the board of trustees of Da Vinci Schools to order on Tuesday Dec 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

B. Record Attendance

C. Approve the Agenda

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the agenda.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

T. Johnstone	Aye
L. Jennings	Absent
C. McCullough	Aye
C. Brown	Absent

Roll Call

S. Nellman Aye

D. Public Comments

No public comments.

II. Information

A. From the Board

There was nothing to report from the board.

B. From the CEO/Superintendent

There was nothing to report from the CEO/Superintendent.

C. From the Assistant Superintendents

Assistant Superintendent Michelle Rainey reported that she is currently working with the rest of the executive team on identifying and planning the next steps for RISE as the map out charter renewal, with a clear focus on ensuring that all decisions and actions are centered on what is best for students. Her focus in this process has been grounded in student needs and long-term outcomes, and she is approaching this phase thoughtfully and strategically. After the break, Michelle stated that the RISE instructional team will focus on developing and working on job-alike responsibilities, collaborating with others to align roles, priorities, and supports in a way that strengthens the program and advances RISE's goals.

D. From the Executive Director of Special Education

Executive Director of Special Education Lynn Rodriguez shared an update on special education, noting that the SPED population currently represents 23% of the student body. To support these students, the school has three SPED teachers in place who are providing specialized instruction, services, and collaboration with general education staff. This staffing structure is designed to meet a range of student needs while ensuring compliance with IEP requirements and maintaining a focus on inclusive practices and student success.

E. Facilities Update

Assistant Superintendent Vicente Bravo informed the board that the facilities department has been focused on making sure that RISE has everything needed to ensure streamlined processes with facilities that lead towards student and school success.

F. RISE High Update

Principal Naomi Lara updated the board that as of December 2025, RISE High serves a total enrollment of 156 students across the Richstone and APCH sites, with a student

population that includes a high percentage of historically underserved groups: 18% current or former foster youth, 10% students experiencing homelessness, 6% current or former probation youth, and 23% students with IEPs. English Learners represent 22% of the student body, and 7% of students are identified as Pregnant and Parenting. Attendance data over multiple years highlights fluctuations impacted by external factors, with notable improvement in 2024–25, where the average attendance rose to 72.33%, and continued stability in the early months of the 2025–26 school year, maintaining averages in the low-to-mid 70% range. Principal Lara updated the board of the key instructional initiatives RISE staff have been focused on, including the CPPS Partnership for Teaching and Learning, Leave to Learn experiences, and End-of-Quarter Presentations of Learning, all of which are designed to deepen engagement, personalize learning, and strengthen student outcomes.

G. Financial Update

CFO Michael Amato provided an update to the board regarding the FY 2025–26 First Interim Revised Budget for Da Vinci RISE reflects updated enrollment and ADA assumptions across two sites (RS and APCH) and shows a modest decrease in total projected revenue from approximately $4.24 million to $4.04 million, primarily driven by lower ADA-based funding adjustments. Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) remains the primary revenue source, supplemented by federal funds, state revenues, special education allocations, and a notable increase in foundation grants and other local revenues. Total personnel expenses remain the largest expenditure category at about $2.37 million, reflecting staff market adjustments and step increases, while operating expenses decreased due to reductions in consulting, services, and other discretionary costs. Overall, the revised budget projects total expenses of roughly $4.03 million, resulting in a positive net change from operations and an improved ending fund balance with reserves exceeding the minimum required level, indicating a stable financial position for the school going into the remainder of the fiscal year. He additionally informed the board that the audit for the 24-25 school year was received and was overall positive.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. Approve Minutes of the October 15, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools Regular Board Meeting on 11-19-25.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

C. McCullough	Aye
C. Brown	Absent
T. Johnstone	Aye
L. Jennings	Absent
S. Nellman	Aye

T. Johnstone made a motion to approve the minutes from Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High) on 10-15-25.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

IV. Action Items

A. Approve Agreement between Clark Atlanta University and Da Vinci RISE

S. Nellman made a motion to Approve Agreement between Clark Atlanta University and Da Vinci RISE.
T. Johnstone seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

L. Jennings	Absent
T. Johnstone	Aye
C. Brown	Absent
S. Nellman	Aye
C. McCullough	Aye

B. Approve Updated Da Vinci Schools School-Sponsored Trips Policy

S. Nellman made a motion to Approve Updated Da Vinci Schools School-Sponsored Trips Policy.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

C. Brown	Absent
T. Johnstone	Aye
L. Jennings	Absent
C. McCullough	Aye
S. Nellman	Aye

C. Approve Recording Individualized Education Plan and Section 504 Meetings Board Policy

S. Nellman made a motion to Approve Recording Individualized Education Plan and Section 504 Meetings Board Policy.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

L. Jennings	Absent
T. Johnstone	Aye
C. Brown	Absent
C. McCullough	Aye
S. Nellman	Aye

D. Accept September 2025 Check and EFT Transactions Per Management

C. McCullough made a motion to Accept September 2025 Check and EFT Transactions Per Management.
S. Nellman seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

C. Brown	Absent
T. Johnstone	Aye
S. Nellman	Aye
L. Jennings	Absent
C. McCullough	Aye

E. Approve 24-25 Annual Audit Report

T. Johnstone made a motion to Approve 24-25 Annual Audit Report.
C. McCullough seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

C. Brown	Absent
L. Jennings	Absent
T. Johnstone	Aye
C. McCullough	Aye
S. Nellman	Aye

F. Approve 25-26 First Interim Revised Budget

C. McCullough made a motion to Approve 25-26 First Interim Revised Budget.
S. Nellman seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

T. Johnstone	Aye
L. Jennings	Absent
C. Brown	Absent
S. Nellman	Aye
C. McCullough	Aye

V. Closed Session

A. Conference with Legal Counsel

The board moved into Closed Session at 7:16 pm to discuss anticipated litigation.

B. Reconvene for Public Session & Closed Session Reporting

The board reconvened into Public Session at 7:38pm and stated there was nothing to report from Closed Session.

VI. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

S. Nellman made a motion to Adjourn the Meeting.
T. Johnstone seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

S. Nellman	Aye
C. McCullough	Aye
L. Jennings	Absent
T. Johnstone	Aye
C. Brown	Absent

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Crouch

Next Da Vinci Schools: L.A. County Board Meeting (RISE High): January 21, 2026